

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03

/087 W

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R 031240Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8411

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG US FR

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: FRANCE

REF: STATE 37591

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SUMMARY. WE DO NOT EXPECT MUCH CHANGE IN FRENCH POLICY

TOWARD MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS. THEIR MAIN OBJECTIVES WILL BE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR TIES WITH THE LDC'S AND TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF EUROPEAN UNITY. WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THE GOF WILL WELCOME REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE USG AT VARIOUS LEVELS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ARE KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS IN QUESTIONNAIRE TRANSMITTED IN PARAGRAPH 7 REFTEL.

A. FRANCE'S PRIMARY MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN 1976.

2. FRANCE'S MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM HER OVERALL FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES. THESE ARE: (1) TO STRENGTHEN FRANCE'S TIES TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD, AND TO ENHANCE FRANCE'S SELF-ASSIGNED ROLE AS A POWER BROKER BETWEEN THE LDC'S AND THE DC'S; (2) TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE ROAD TOWARD EUROPEAN UNITY; (3) TO IMPROVE FRANCE'S COMMERCIAL TRADING SITUATION, AND TO IMPROVE FRANCE'S SUCCESS IN BIDDING FOR MAJOR ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD; (4) TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS AND SATISFACTORY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD; AND (5) TO ENHANCE FRANCE'S GLOBAL INFLUENCE THROUGH THE FURTHER SPREAD OF FRENCH CULTURE.

3. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, FRANCE IS NOT LIKELY TO JOIN THE UNITED STATES IN A MILITANT DEFENSE AGAINST THE AUTOMATIC MAJORITY IN MULTILATERAL BODIES, BUT WILL WORK QUIETLY WITH ITS FRIENDS TO COMPROMISE AND SOFTEN PROPOSALS ORIGINATING WITH THE LDC RADICALS. FRANCE WILL ALSO TRY TO STRENGTHEN THE FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATING MECHANISM OF THE EC-9 AS IT NOW EXISTS THROUGH INCREASED EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS AND COMMON POSITIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, BUT IT WILL TAKE A POSITION APART FROM THE NINE IF ITS THIRD WORLD INTERESTS SEEM TO DICTATE DOING SO. IN PURSUIT OF ITS OBJECTIVE TO BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH ALL GOVERNMENTS, FRANCE WILL BE SEEN INCREASINGLY AS A SEEKER OF COMPROMISE POSITIONS, AS IN THE CASE OF THE KOREAN QUESTION AT THE UNGA OVER THE PAST

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TWO YEARS. IN CONTRAST TO ITS POSITION IN THE EC-9, FRANCE IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT NATO AS A FORUM FOR THE COORDINATION OF POLICY ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES THAT GO BEYOND NATO'S OWN TERMS OF REFERENCE CONCERNING ATLANTIC SECURITY. HAVING LAUNCHED THE IDEA OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, FRANCE WILL WORK HARD TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS. FINALLY, FRANCE WILL TAKE AN INTENSIVE INTEREST IN ALL ECONOMIC ISSUES DISCUSSED IN MULTILATERAL

BODIES TO MAKE SURE THAT FRANCE'S NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE WELL PROTECTED.

B. INFLUENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND GROUPS OF COUNTRIES ON MULTILATERAL POLICYMAKING

4. FRANCE IS PROBABLY THE LEAST INFLUENCED IN ITS MULTILATERAL POLICYMAKING BY OUTSIDE ELEMENTS AMONG THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES. IN VIEW OF ITS OVERALL OBJECTIVES HOWEVER FRANCE DOES ASSIGN SPECIAL WEIGHT TO THE VIEWS OF ITS FORMER DEPENDENCIES WITHIN THE GROUP OF 77, TO ITS EC-9 PARTNERS, ESPECIALLY THE FRG, AND TO THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PRC. IN TERMS OF FRANCE

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SEEKING TO EXERT INFLUENCE ON OTHERS, THIS EFFORT SEEMS TO TAKE PLACE MAINLY WITHIN THE EC-9 CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM, AND AMONG FRANCE'S BEST FRIENDS WITHIN THE GROUP OF 77, ESPECIALLY FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICANS.

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C. HOST GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS DELEGATIONS

5. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE GOF MAINTAINS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER ITS DELEGATIONS, PROVIDES INSTRUCTIONS IN A TIMELY FASHION, AND ALLOWS SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY IN ON-SITE NEGOTIATIONS SO THAT WORK CAN PROCEED.

D. POWER OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OR HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

6. ALTHOUGH PERM REP POSITIONS ARE AMONG MOST PRESTIGIOUS IN THE FRENCH FOREIGN SERVICE, WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY HAVE ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL INDEPENDENT POWER MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR THE GOF TO INSTRUCT THEM. PERM REP ADVICE IS SOUGHT AND WELCOMED BY THE POLICYMAKERS, BUT THE PERM REPS GIVE FULL LOYALTY TO FINAL DECISIONS AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL.

E. HOST GOVERNMENT RECEPTIVITY TO U.S. REPRESENTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES

7. THE GOF LIKES TO HAVE REGULAR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE USG ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES AT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE LEVEL, EITHER IN PARIS OR WASHINGTON. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE JUST PRIOR TO THE UNGA, BUT APPEARS TO BE WELCOME AT OTHER TIMES. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS ALSO WELCOMES FREQUENT EMBASSY VISITS TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC SUBJECTS. THERE ARE NO INHIBITIONS ABOUT INTENSIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. WHEN MULTILATERAL ISSUES ARE CONTROLLED NOT IN THE MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE, BUT IN GEOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC OR CULTURAL DIRECTORATES, WE ARE USUALLY

WELCOME TO HAVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN THOSE OFFICES.
WE WILL SOMETIMES BE TOLD THAT THE BEST PLACE FOR BILATERAL
CONSULTATIONS IS ON-SITE BETWEEN DELEGATIONS, BUT IF
WE HAVE A STRONG HIGH-LEVEL DEMARCHE TO MAKE, WE ARE
ALWAYS RECEIVED PROMPTLY.

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